

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 OEP-01 GSA-01

INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 AGR-20 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 STR-08 RSR-01

/169 W

----- 098530

R 201008 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1590

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJ: STOCKPILE REDUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

RTG MINISTER RESOURCES DEPT. DIRECTOR GENERAL SAMAN
BURAVAS QUOTED IN MARCH 18 SIAM RATH AND CHINESE
PRESS MARCH 19 AS SAYING US DUMPING OF SURPLUS TIN
WOULD HAVE TREMENDOUS EFFECT ON WORLD TIN PRICES AND
ECONOMY OF THAILAND. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NATION MARCH 17
QUOTES POSSIBLE LOSS OF " ABOUT 400 MILLION BAHT (\$20
MILLION) OF INCOME FROM TIN EXPORT." FIGURE BASED ON
25 PERCENT REDUCTION OF ANNUAL PRODUCTION QUOTA. INTER-
NATIONAL TIN COUNCIL MEETING IN LONDON MARCH 27-28
WAS ALREADY EXPECTED TO REDUCE THAILAND' S QUOTA BY ABOUT
TEN PERCENT. ACCORDING NATION, AT LONDON MEETING
THAILAND EXPECTED TO JOIN OTHER MEMBERS OF ITC TO
" STRONGLY PROTEST" US MOVE. MR. SAMAN FURTHER QUOTED AS
SAYING MFA WILL ALSO SEND NOTE TO US STATE DEPARTMENT
ASKING US NOT TO DUMP ITS SURPLUS TIN.

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2. RTG MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RUBBER MR. RATANA PETCHORN, QUOTED IN NATION ARTICLE AS SAYING US ACTION WILL NOT HURT RUBBER PLANTERS AS RUBBER STOCK-PILE SMALL AND MORE THAN ONE- HALF OF THAI RUBBER EXPORTS GOES TO JAPAN. SAME SOURCE QUOTED IN THAI AND CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS MARCH 19 AS SAYING RELEASE OF US RUBBER STOCK-PILE WILL ACTUALLY BENEFIT PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS PRESENT PRICE IS TOO HIGH AND DANGER OF CONSUMERS TURNING TO SYNTHETICS IS GREAT. CONTROLLED RELEASE OF US STOCKPILE, E. G. 5-6,000 TONS PER MONTH, EXPECTED TO REDUCE WORLD RUBBER PRICES TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. ALSO, SAME SOURCE MADE POINT THAT ELIMINATION OF US STOCKPILE WILL HAVE LONG-RANGE BENEFIT OF REDUCING UNCERTAINTY EVER- PRESENT IN WORLD MARKET ABOUT US INTENTIONS.

3. AMERICAN MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THAI ZINC LTD. INFORMED EMBOFF MARCH 20 THERE IS NOW SELLERS' MARKET IN HIS COMMODITY AND, THUS, HE WAS UNCONCERNED ABOUT RELEASE OF US STOCKPILE.

4. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR USUAL SENSATIONAL TREATMENT BY NATION, LOCAL PRESS HAS THUS FAR REPORTED STOCKPILE RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT ROUTINELY AND WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. RTG HAS NOT APPROACHED EMBASSY ON MATTER THOUGH PRESUMABLY MFA WOULD SEND DEPARTMENT NOTE THROUGH THAI EMBASSY.
UNGER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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